

Arched Sage Built-In Bookcase Project Card

A compact planning reference for the arched built-in bookcase with display shelves, coordinated drawings, and a 3D model.

Best for	A planned feature-wall storage and display project for readers coordinating a three-arch built-in bookcase before cutting or installation.
Skill level	Advanced DIY / maker. Contractor review recommended for final fixing, wall conditions, and any electrical coordination.
Estimated time	Depends on site verification, fabrication method, finish schedule, and whether parts are shop-built, site-built, or assembled from prepared pieces.
Working envelope	96 in. wide x 96 in. high x 15 in. deep planned envelope. Verify the actual wall, floor, ceiling, and clearances before cutting or ordering.

Project Summary

This project plans a three-bay arched built-in bookcase with repeated semicircular openings, display shelves, a muted sage painted finish, and space for porcelain and family photos.

The coordinated drawing set and 3D model help readers understand the layout, materials, clearances, and order of work before making irreversible cuts or fixing anything to the wall.

Main Materials

- 3/4 in. hardwood cabinet plywood for carcass and shelves.
- 1/4 in. backing panel.
- 3/4 in. paint-grade MDF for arch faces and face trim.
- Muted sage satin painted finish; Benjamin Moore ADVANCE October Mist used as the finish direction.
- Three 28 in. wide arched openings, four 3 in. vertical stiles, and true semicircular 14 in. radius arch geometry.
- Shelf elevations planned at 20 in., 34 in., 48 in., and 62 in. above finished floor.
- Reserved picture-light zone: 24 in. wide x 5.75 in. high. Verify fixture, electrical routing, and mounting before purchase or installation.
- Fasteners, adhesives, wall-fixing method, trim accessories, and final quantities: verify before purchase.

Tools

- Tape measure, pencil, level, square, and straightedge.
- Saw setup appropriate for sheet goods and trim.
- Jigsaw, router, or template method for arch fabrication.
- Drill/driver, clamps, sander, filling tools, and painting tools suitable for the chosen finish system.
- Personal protective equipment for cutting, sanding, routing, and finishing.

Before You Start

- Measure the wall, ceiling height, floor level, base conditions, and clearances on site.
- Confirm that the 96 in. x 96 in. x 15 in. envelope fits the actual space.
- Check wall plumb, floor flatness, and whether scribing or shimming will be needed.
- Confirm fixing method with the wall construction and specialist requirements.
- Verify electrical routing and fixture choice before treating the picture-light zone as install-ready.
- Check display clearances against the objects you plan to place on the shelves.

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Build sequence, files, shopping checks, and site notes

Build Sequence

1. Confirm the finished envelope and compare the planned dimensions with the actual wall.
2. Measure and mark the wall, floor line, bay centers, shelf elevations, and arch springline.
3. Review the 2D drawings before cutting sheet goods.
4. Use the 3D model to understand depth, repeated bays, shelf planes, and arch faces.
5. Prepare the carcass, shelf, backing, stile, and arch-face parts from the selected materials.
6. Cut or template the arch faces so the repeated openings match.
7. Assemble the three bays and keep shelves level and aligned.
8. Dry-fit the face trim and arch pieces after the openings are square.
9. Check display clearances and the reserved picture-light zone before final finishing.
10. Fill, sand, prime, and paint the millwork according to the selected finish system.
11. Place or install the bookcase only after wall conditions and fixing details are confirmed.
12. Style the shelves lightly so the arches remain the main feature.
13. Review alignment, clearances, finish touch-ups, and unresolved specialist items before calling the project ready.

Project Files

- DXF drawing for editable 2D reference.
- Drawing PDF for dimensioned layout review.
- STEP model for editable/importable 3D solid geometry.
- 3D model review PDF for coordinated model checks.

Shopping Notes

- Confirm sheet quantity from the final cut plan before buying.
- Verify plywood, MDF, and backing thicknesses against the drawing and fabrication method.
- Confirm paint system, primer, sheen, and drying schedule before finishing.
- Verify lighting fixture dimensions, electrical requirements, and mounting conditions before purchase.
- Confirm fasteners, adhesives, wall-fixing hardware, and trim accessories after checking actual wall construction.

Safety and Site Notes

- Use dust protection and eye protection when cutting, sanding, or routing sheet goods.
- Do not cut into walls or route electrical work without confirming utilities and using qualified help where required.
- Treat the 3D model and drawings as planning references, not proof of site readiness.
- Have a qualified professional review anchoring, wall structure, and electrical work where needed.

Use This Card As

Use this card as a quick planning checklist and project reference. Use the full article and project files for detailed measuring, fabrication, assembly, finishing, and review guidance.